

SPARK GAP

Vol. 33, Issue 5, May 2016 MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-three years

On Our MARC:

Ladies and Gentleman, start your radio!!

May starts a summer of activities. We have the Dayton Hamfest in May, the Strawberry Fest and Field day in June. September brings the Heartnut Fest and the Radio Club yearly picnic. I hope everyone will get a chance to stop by to as many activities as possible.

Over the last few months, I have realized that life is a gift. Take the time to enjoy it. Don't put something off until tomorrow as tomorrow may never come. Spend the time enjoying every day to the fullest.

Please keep Sam Carter in your thoughts and prayers. Sam had a mild stroke.

No speaker is scheduled for May due to Dayton. If there is anyone in the Club that would like to speak to the group that is not attending the Hamfest, please let Ron K9THR know.

Brian Herbert, has asked me if there are a couple operators willing to partner with the Boy Scouts on some activities in 2016 to promote STEM activities as well as Amateur Radio.

One of the biggest events they are planning is to launch a weather balloon in August at Camp Ransburg in Bloomington. They will do the project to take photos and video of the curvature of the earth. This has been done by numerous groups in the past and they usually track the payload as it returns to earth by tracking a cheap cellphone with GPS. He is hoping to possibly use a small transmitter to track it if possible. If there is anyone who may be interested in a project like this he would love to connect with them. They are also planning the event to coincide with the meteor showers in August so he thought it might be fun to do some transmitting off the showers that evening if possible.

They also have a rocket launch planned for June and that may be a fun time to do a little field operating if someone is interested in that. They are doing the launch Saturday, June 18th from 1-3 PM at the football practice field just north of the football stadium at Franklin HS. If you are interested in helping please let me know or feel free to send him an email to thinbluebbq@gmail.com.

Hope to see you on Saturday.

Jacki, KI6QOG
President



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! MONTH of MAY

KC9GCH-Linda Harshbarger

N9AWM-Andrew Murrey

KU9V-Anthony Stokes

K9NTZ-Kevin Nuetzman

KA9QBF-Joseph Lovrini

KC9ZTM-Thomas Genera



ORIGINAL WIRELESS

ham radio made it possible.
cellphones are just posers.

motifake.com

ARRL EXPO at Dayton Hamvention® to Incorporate International Interests

ARRL EXPO -- the ARRL's "show within a show" -- at Dayton Hamvention® 2016 will incorporate the interests of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) and of several IARU Member Societies. These will include the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL), which will be accepting applications for JARL awards; the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC); the Qatar Amateur Radio Society (QARS), and the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB). Hamvention takes place May 20-22 at Hara Arena, near Dayton, Ohio.

Visitors also may have cards checked to qualify for various JARL awards, and, once you've completed an application, JARL representatives can issue some popular JARL awards (AJD, WAJA, ADXA) on the spot. JARL also will be accepting applications for the IARU Region 3 Operating Award. Certificates will be mailed to applicants after Hamvention.

ARRL staff and DXCC volunteer card checkers will offer DXCC card checking and award application processing. Use the Online DXCC tool and save money on your application! Bring a printout of your application, card list, and cards -- in the order entered into the Online DXCC. ARRL members also may drop off their QSL cards to be sent through the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau. Sort cards by DXCC entity.

Greeting visitors on behalf of the IARU will be President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA; and Secretary Rod Stafford, W6ROD; IARU and ARRL President Emeritus Larry Price, W4RA, and technical representative Peter Chadwick, G3RZP.

ARRL International Affairs Vice President Jay Bellows, K0QB, will also be on hand at ARRL EXPO.

Hamvention will host an International Relations booth within ARRL EXPO's international row to welcome and greet convention visitors from abroad.

For full details about ARRL activities and programs at Hamvention 2016, visit the ARRL EXPO web page.



INQP HF Stations

Working HF radio is in vogue with many MARC members this month. Saturday May 7th dawned as Steve Carmean-K9DY and Jack Parker-W8ISH cruised down the new I-69 to Vincennes, Indiana to participate in the Indiana INQP contest. The two day statewide contest has hams around the state trying to make as many contacts with hams in the other ninety-one counties. Extra points were given this year for contacting the original 15 Indiana counties as the Hoosier state celebrates the Bicentennial. Steve and Jack took their effort one step further by setting up at the George Rogers Clark Memorial in Vincennes. They offered their contacts extra credit for adding Knox County to their list and by activating the Memorial as one of the National Parks on the Air locations.

Steve spent the day taking 20 meter contacts while Jack logged dozens of contacts on 40 meters. They used portable vertical antennas, their small 100 watt rigs and batteries to operate from the field. Their park location drew lots of contacts as well as bugs hiding in the grass. That lent a new meaning of having your radio bugged. Fortunately, one neighbor lady came by and sprayed our crew with a vanilla bug spray. It didn't improve the band conditions but did help thwart more bug attacks.

Next up on the HF bands is helping to work the W9IMS special event station for the Indy 500 and then the Strawberry Fest and Field Day 2016. Time to experience the joy of talking to the world on HF.

-Jack w8ish

Pictures by Jack W8ISH



George Rogers Clark Memorial



Jack W8ISH & Steve K9DY at work



Jack and the bug spray.

I'm EXTRA Ignorant!

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On Sunday, I received the following e-mail from a reader:

"Just wanted to let you know I passed the General exam using your study guide. It was very helpful. I am now generally ignorant whereas before I was only technically ignorant. Ha!"

My reply to him was:

"Well, if you're generally ignorant, I guess that makes me EXTRA ignorant!"

This isn't just a joke--being ignorant is part of the hobby. Amateur radio operators will always be ignorant about something or other. Even if you could master every facet of the hobby at some point in time, your mastery would be short-lived as the technology continued to advance.

Over the course of my amateur radio career, we've gone from equipment that primarily used vacuum tubes, to solid-state gear that first used discrete transistors and then integrated circuits, to software-defined radios. I could have, at some point, simply given up on the new technology and still enjoyed amateur radio. Some guys do that, and that's OK. It is only a hobby after all.

I'm not one of those guys, though, and if you're not one of those guys, then you have to resign yourself to being ignorant. But, that's a good thing, as long as you realize that you're ignorant. Realizing that you're ignorant will spur you on to learn new things and accept new challenges.

Recently, I realized that I'm mostly ignorant about satellite operation. I know some of the basics from having read articles and writing about the topic in my study guides, but I have never made a contact using a satellite. I think that might be one of my next challenges. With the advent of CubeSat, there are many new satellites up in the air and many more opportunities to have interesting contacts.

So, what are you ignorant about? By that I mean, of course, what's going to be your next challenge in amateur radio?

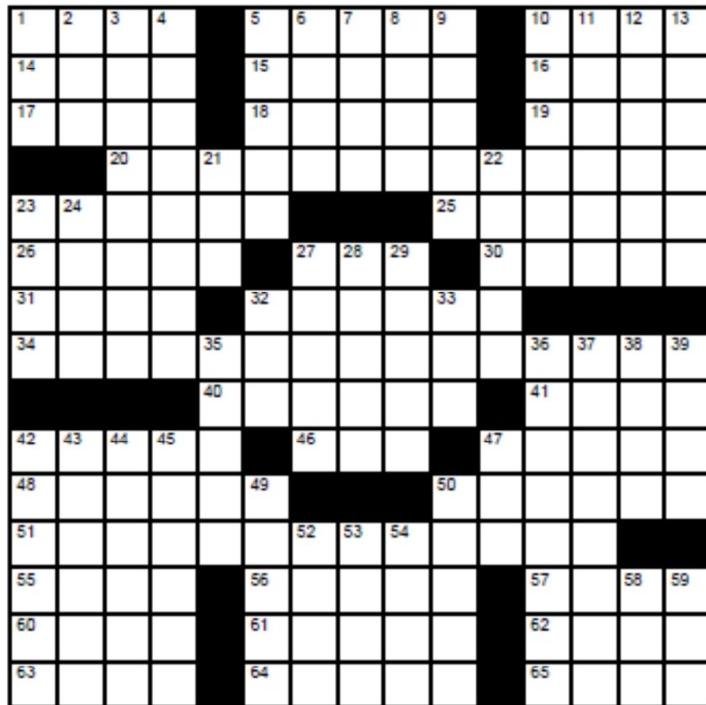
When he's not challenging himself with new things, Dan falls back on something he knows pretty well-operating CW. You'll find him mainly on the 80m, 40m, and 30m bands. Dan is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, and you can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



DXpedition Ditties

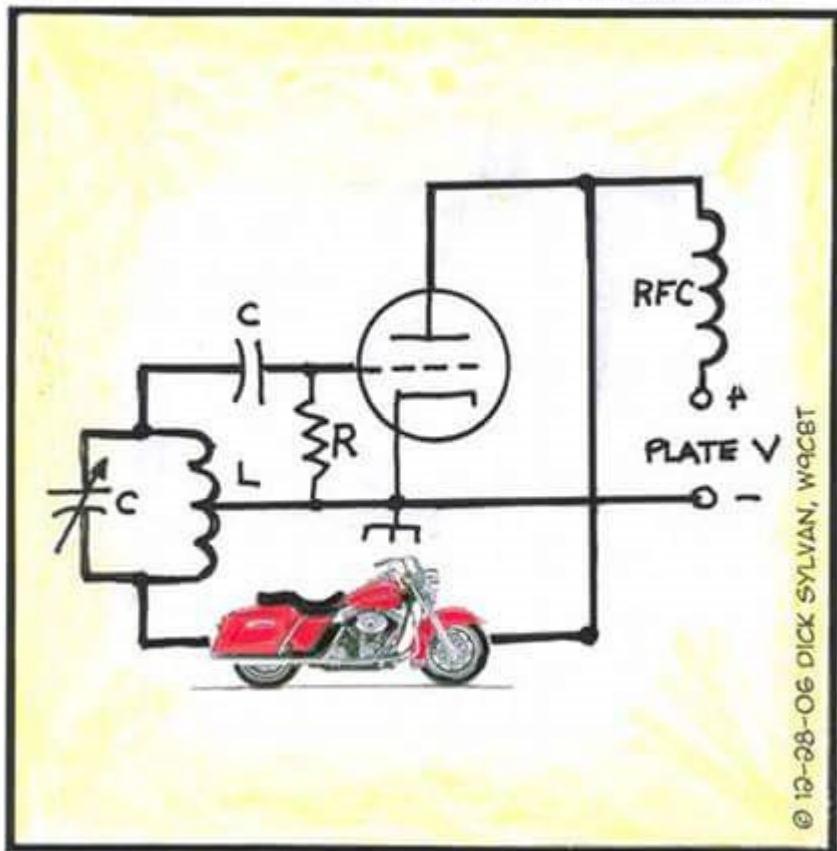
Across

1. Call heard during November
5. Bygone
10. CQ DX ____ of fame
14. "Hurry!"
15. Deleted HK0 last name
16. Hebrew month
17. Org. not for OM's
18. Less inept
19. KH6 root
20. VP6 air space?
23. News manager
25. Listened attentively
26. The missing ones for your DXCC #1, say
27. Suffix with MOS or J
30. Engine sounds
31. W8 - VE3 separator
32. Provides weapons again
34. What it costs to get to BS7?
40. Less fat
41. Three-ply cookie
42. Kind of finish, on a front panel, say
46. Modern alternative to a #47, e.g.
47. Navigation radio
48. "We got ____!" - early ham radio headline
50. S, SWR and others
51. Bad WX on KH8?
55. Suffix with posi-
56. "E pluribus unum,"
62. Plenty
63. Midmonth time
64. Temporary guys
65. El language, e.g.
- Down
1. IOTA item
2. "Got it"
3. IS-land island
4. Talk incoherently
5. Hamshack sign, when transmitting
6. Grease
7. Where to find a hero
12. Listener to a QSO, say
13. Belonging to dx-peditioner Colvin
21. Sin minus 90
22. Severe
23. She sheep
24. DL org.
27. Wild
28. Spanish PX
29. Aligned
32. Future fish
33. Buro alt., sometimes
35. Grace word
39. Geologic periods
42. DX-peditioner Laine
43. Tick or mite cousin
44. 3-500Z, for example
45. Metric 62-across
47. KH6 garland
49. Winds of propagation
50. Long tresses
52. Billionth: Prefix
53. Last bit, in RTTY, say
54. Like a splattering SSB signal
58. PC key



These are free for personal use and re-printable with permission for non-commercial purposes (e.g. in a club newsletter). That is, you can't charge anything for them and you can't use them in any printed or Web publication that charges money for a copy or access. Thanks to my puzzle testers, reviewers, error-finders, critics: K1DG, W1JA, W2SQ, W3RQ. Source: <http://www.w2pa.com/Home/articles/crossword-puzzles>

HAM QUIPS BY DICK SYLVAN W9CBT



HARLEY OSCILLATOR CIRCUIT



HELP NEEDED FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Ham Radio Volunteers are needed in all the public served events that we support.
These are:

May 28 - 500 Festival Parade

Jun 4 - American Diabetes Tour-de-Cure Bike Ride

Aug 1 - Indy Air Race

Sep 10 - Multiple Sclerosis Bike Ride

Oct 1 - Indianapolis Marathon in Lawrence

Nov 7 - Indianapolis Monumental Marathon

Contact is Mike Palmer, N9FEB ---- N9FEB@comcast.net

Michael R. Palmer, N9FEB
Marion County IN Events Coordinator for Ham Radio
7461 Hague Rd., Indpls, IN 46256
(317) 849-3602 home
(317) 753-8691 cell
www.IndyHams.org

INTERESTED IN UPGRADING TO GENERAL CLASS?

MARC is considering a general class licensure class at some point later this year.
Anyone interested should contact either Bruce Tisdale
(VicePresident@Midstatehams.org) or Jacki Fredericks (President@Midstatehams.org)
in regard to participating.

Additional details will be communicated based on the level of interest.

Remember Club Dues for 2016 are due; please see Cy Young N9CHY at the meeting Saturday.

2016 List of Hamfests in Indiana / Convention

- 05/20-21-22/2016 Dayton Hamvention

Location: HARA Arena, Dayton, OH

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://hamvention.org>

- 09/17/2016 Bloomington ARC Hamfest

Location: Monroe County Fairgrounds, 5700 West Airport Road, Bloomington, IN 47401

Sponsor: Bloomington Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.bloomingtonradio.org>

- 11/12/2016 Indiana State Convention

(Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo)

Location: Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46801

Sponsor: Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

Website: <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>



Answers to DXpedition

C	Q	S	S		O	L	D	N		H	A	L	L
A	S	A	P		N	U	E	V	O		E	L	U
Y	L	R	L		A	B	L	E	R		T	A	R
					D	U	C	I	E	I	N	T	H
E	D	I	T	O	R					H	A	R	K
W	A	N	T	S		F	E	T		R	O	A	R
E	R	I	E		R	E	A	R	M	S			
S	C	A	R	B	O	R	O	U	G	H	F	A	R
M	A	T	T	E		L	E	D		L	O	R	A
A	C	R	O	S	S					M	E	T	R
R	A	I	N	S	O	N	S	W	A	I	N	S	
T	R	O	N			L	A	T	I	N	O	T	I
T	I	D	E			A	N	O	D	E	T	O	N
I	D	E	S			R	O	P	E	S	E	R	S

MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Law Enforcement Center, Conference Room 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a HAM to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

WA9RDF Repeaters:

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Club Officers:

President: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG
Vice President: Bruce Tisdale -- K9ICP
Secretary: Rhonda Curtis – WS9H
Treasurer: Cy Young – N9CHY
Repeater Trustee - Chris Frederick – KQ9Y

WA9RDF Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

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Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd of the month

